

---

## Gopher Tortoise Nesting Technician

The Herpetology Lab at the Jones Center at Ichauway is seeking one field researcher to assist a graduate student with their research on gopher tortoise nesting. The position will begin on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, and will extend through July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 (later start dates may be considered for qualified candidates). Priority consideration will be given to applications received by March 10, 2023.

The 28,000-acre Research Center is located approximately 30 miles south of Albany, Georgia. The Center's research, education, and conservation programs focus on ecology and natural resource management. The site includes over 1,000 acres of wetlands, and 26 miles of stream and river ecosystems, harboring a rich array of ecosystems ranging from 16,000 acres of longleaf pine forests and is host to a suite of rare, threatened, and endemic herpetofauna. For more information visit our web site: <http://www.jonesctr.org/>.

The overall goal of this project is to better understand nest-site selection and its effect on hatching success in gopher tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*). Like most turtle species, gopher tortoises bury their nests in the soil to protect eggs from predation and create the necessary conditions for hatching. The environmental cues that facilitate nest-site selection in gopher tortoises and the impact of nest microclimate on hatching success in natural nests is poorly understood. Understanding these relationships may have important implications for the management of this imperiled species.

**Job Requirements:** The successful candidate will be responsible for the following:

1) locating, excavating, and processing gopher tortoise nests and eggs, 2) data entry, 3) vegetation and soil sampling, and 4) assisting with a variety of additional herpetology field/lab activities, as available.

The successful applicant **must** be in good physical condition and **must** be able to work in very hot, humid, and buggy conditions. This position is heavily field based with most time spent outdoors collecting field data.

**Qualifications:** Qualifications include a Bachelor of Science degree from (or current enrollment in) an accredited university, preferably with coursework in wildlife ecology. Preference is given to applicants with previous field experience. Must be a U.S. citizen.

**Wages:** \$12.00 per hour with on-site housing provided (No pets allowed). No benefits package is available.

**To apply:** Send a cover letter, resume, list of three references with contact information **as a single PDF document** by email to: [jobs@jonesctr.org](mailto:jobs@jonesctr.org) AND [grlawson@vt.edu](mailto:grlawson@vt.edu), (Subject line) **Gopher Tortoise Nesting Technician**.

Please contact **Garrett Lawson** for specific questions related to this position at [grlawson@vt.edu](mailto:grlawson@vt.edu).

*The Jones Center at Ichauway aspires to fully embrace equity, diversity, and inclusion. We reject all forms of racism including overt and systemic, prejudice, discrimination, or hate toward any race, ethnicity, culture, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, national origin, veteran status, socioeconomic class, religion, or professional status. The Jones Center at Ichauway is an equal opportunity/affirmative action E-verify employer.*